

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY	Albania	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Economic: 1. Transportation 2. Rationing and Distribution 3. Money in Circulation 4. Collectives	DATE DISTR.	13 December 1955
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

Transportation

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- Public transportation facilities in Albania are good. There are 5,000 trucks and 150 buses of Soviet and Czechoslovakian manufacture currently in operation.
- The Albanian railroad network has four locomotives and about 50 cars.

Rationing and Distribution

- The following consumer items are rationed in Albania: bread, macaroni, sugar, rice, olive oil, soap and clothing. The rationing system has not been very effective. In 1955, government officials relaxed rationing controls with the result that more consumer items appeared in the free market. However, the Albanian people have not benefited by this change because their purchasing power has not been increased.
- Party and government leaders purchase their food and clothing in special shops. Notwithstanding this special privilege, some party and government officials have engaged in black marketing activities.

Money in Circulation

- The following currencies are now in circulation in Albania: the Albanian lek, the United States dollar and the gold Napoleon. The exchange rate between the dollar and the lek is 35 leks to the dollar; however, members of the diplomatic corps receive 50 leks to the dollar. The official rate for the gold Napoleon is 360 leks while the black market rate is 1,300 leks to the gold Napoleon.

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC		ORR	Ev	X		
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(Note: Washington distribution indicated by "X"; Field distribution by "#".)

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Collectives

6. The government is still enforcing the farm collective program in spite of popular opposition. The Albanian peasant finds the collective idea contrary to his natural inclination for working his own land as an independent farmer. Meanwhile, the government has not been able to increase the crop yield during the past years and the 1955 harvest is not expected to exceed those of previous years. Wheat is still being imported from the Soviet Union.

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1. [redacted] Comment: [redacted] a breakdown of the "50 cars" i.e., how much of the rolling stock is freight, passenger or tank cars.

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